

What is claimed:

1. A computer apparatus for implementing a workflow, the workflow being defined by a sequence of activity nodes, the computer apparatus comprising a process executor for arranging the execution of the activity nodes in accordance with the defined sequence and being arranged to provide, in accordance with the sequence, node definitions associated with the activity nodes to a node handler to allow the node handler to initiate execution of the activity node.

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2. A computer apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the node handler is arranged to simulate the execution of a node activity for a provided node definition.

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3. A computer apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising registration means for allowing association of an additional node handler to the process executor, the additional node handler being capable of initiating execution of a different type of activity node.

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4. A computer apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a process definer for defining the workflow.

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5. A computer apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the node handler is arranged to provide a node description to the process definer to allow the node description to be incorporated within a workflow definition.

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6. A method for implementing a workflow, the workflow being defined by a sequence of activity nodes, the method comprising arranging the execution of the activity nodes in accordance with the defined sequence and providing, in accordance with the sequence, node

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definitions associated with the activity nodes to a node handler to allow the node handler to initiate execution of the activity node.

- 5 7. A method according to claim 6, further comprising simulating, within a node handler, the execution of a node activity for a provided node definition.
- 10 8. A method according to claim 5, further comprising associating an additional node handler to the process executor, the additional node handler being capable of initiating execution of a different type of activity node.